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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I appreciate the irony in the question. But eight annas is not a small matter when it is multiplied by a very large figure, viz., the number of people, concerned."

National Extension Scheme.

* 3 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the new blocks taken up for development under the National Extension Scheme this year and the amount allotted for each such area ; and

(*b*) the establishment of officers and staff sanctioned for each National Extension Scheme area?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The National Extension Service has been launched in 28 blocks during the current financial year. The programmed cost of working a National Extension Service block for a period of three years is as follows :—

	RS. LAKHS.
Recurring expenditure	1·5
Non-recurring expenditure	2·0
Loans	4·0
	7·5

" (*b*) The following staff have been sanctioned for each of the selected blocks :

One Block Development Officer.

One Extension Officer for Agriculture.

One Extension Officer for Animal Husbandry.

One Extension Officer for Co-operation and Panchayats.

Two Social Education Organizers (one man and one woman).

One Extension Service Supervisor-*cum*-Junior Engnieer.

Three Gramasevaks (Grade I).

Seven Gramasevaks (Grade II).

One Accountant-*cum*-Store-keeper.

One typist-*cum*-clerk.

Eight peons.

One Jeep driver."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether these Block Development Officers are given the same scales of pay as other officers?"

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Generally, yes, Sir. But in the case of some of these categories of officers an extra allowance of 10 per cent is given."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister what are the reasons for this grant of extra allowance of 10 per cent? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It has been suggested by the Departments concerned that these officers are not willing to go over to this specialised work and as they would suffer from certain disadvantages an extra allowance was recommended which the Government have accepted."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister if any special training is given to the officers employed for this special work? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Officers of the various technical departments do not require any training and therefore no training is proposed to be given. "

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether there is any justification for the grant of any extra allowance to these officers especially when no special training is given to them? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have considered all aspects of the question and have come to the conclusion that there is some justification for giving this extra allowance for these officers in order that they may not suffer on account of their transfer to these specialised posts."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know whether the Government have any proposal to select for these posts of social workers and gramasevaks members of the teaching profession ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I cannot say, Sir, whether there are any specific proposals to recruit officers from the teaching profession? "

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, whether maternity and midwifery services to the rural population are included in these National Extension Schemes? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, that will be included."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know whether the Government have made any estimate of the benefits, financial or otherwise, that resulted by the expenditure of such a large amount of money on these National Extension Schemes? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I am unable to say how the benefits that are expected to accrue can be

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estimated in terms of money. But I can tell the hon. Member that the object of this scheme is to raise, before the end of the first Five-year Plan, the standard of living of the people in the villages to at least three times the present level as a result of the various services that are proposed to be done under the National Extension Service Schemes."

Gambling cases in Tiruchirappalli.

* 4 *Q.*—Sri M. K. M. ABDUL SALAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state the number of cases of gambling in the name of playing cards that have been booked in Tiruchirappalli district in the year 1952?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" One thousand, six hundred and forty-seven cases of gambling with playing cards were booked in Tiruchirappalli district in the year 1952."

Sri K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR :—" May I know, whether the Government will furnish statistics with regard to gambling cases in other districts also, particularly the City of Madras? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Certainly we will supply the figures if a separate question is put on the subject."

Sri M. K. M. ABDUL SALAM :—" May I know whether the Government are aware whether gambling is going on in almost all the clubs and if so, what steps have the Government proposed to take against such clubs? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The various forms of gambling which is done in clubs do not generally offend the law. For example, token coins are used. These matters should be left to the good sense of the people."

Sri S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister for Finance and Education is also booking rich gamblers just as the Hon. the Minister in charge of Prohibition has very rightly been booking rich offenders against the Prohibition Act? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, some of the people charged in gambling cases are also rich people."

Sri M. K. M. ABDUL SALAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. the Chief Minister has ever played cards? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Not on stakes, Sir."

Sri ALEXANDER GNANAMUTTU :—" May I know, Sir, whether poker which is played in every officers' club comes under 'gambling'? "

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Poker is a harmless game."